What is Claimed:

1. A plurality of schemas, comprising:

a plurality of schemas declaring a plurality of properties; and

a first group of at least one schema within said plurality of schemas in a base layer; and

a second group of at least one schema within said plurality of schemas in an intermediate layer; and

two or more top layer schemas that each provide a complete document structure; wherein

any properties declared within said second group that are dependent on schemas outside said second group are dependent on properties declared within said base layer; and

at least one property declared within each of said two or more top layer schemas is dependent on a property declared in said first group or in said second group.

2. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares a basic text type for identifying text.

3. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for identifying data that will be replaced and corresponding data that the identified data will be replaced with.

4. The plurality of schemas of claim 3, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for marking data proximal to the identified data that will also be replaced with the corresponding data.

5. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for identifying data that can be referenced in multiple locations of an XML document, thereby supporting easy updating of the data.

6. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares one or more of an acronym element for identifying acronyms, an abbreviation element for identifying abbreviations, a quotation element for identifying quotations, a date element for identifying dates, a foreign phrase element for identifying foreign

phrases, a conditional element for marking data to be conditionally included, a subscript element for identifying subscripts, and a superscript element for identifying superscripts.

7. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares one or more of a paragraph element for identifying paragraphs and a title element for identifying titles.

8. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares one or more of a table element for identifying tables, an entry element for identifying table entries, a list element for identifying lists, a procedure element for identifying a procedure, and a step element for identifying a step in a procedure.

9. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares a section element for identifying sections of a document.

10. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema comprises three or more schemas, and wherein at least one schema of said three or more schemas incorporates some or all of the other schemas of said three or more schemas.

11. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein at least one of said two or more top layer schemas defines a complete document structure for one or more of a glossary, a frequently asked questions document, and a reference document.

12. The plurality of schemas of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first group of at least one schema and said second group of at least one schema is represented in a computer readable medium.

13. A method for generating a plurality of related schemas, comprising:

declaring a first group of properties in at least one first schema, and

declaring at least one intermediate group of properties in at least one second schema, wherein each of said at least one intermediate group of properties do not depend on any properties other than those declared in itself, those declared in the first group of properties, and those declared in intermediate groups of properties between itself and said first group of properties; and

generating at least one schema with properties that depend on some or all of the properties in said first group of properties and said at least one intermediate group of properties.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising inserting additional properties into one or more of the first group of properties, the at least one intermediate group of properties, and at least one schema that results from said generating, by carrying out steps comprising:

determining if said additional properties are common to more than one of the at least one schema that results from said generating at least one schema; and

inserting any additional properties that are common into one or more of said first group of properties and said at least one intermediate group of properties; and

inserting any additional properties that are not common into the at least one schema that results from said generating at least one schema.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties declares a basic text type for identifying text.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties declares an attribute for identifying data that will be replaced and corresponding data that the identified data will be replaced with.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties declares an attribute for marking data proximal to the identified data that will also be replaced with the corresponding data.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties declares an attribute for identifying data that can be referenced in multiple locations of a document instance, thereby supporting easy updating of the data.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties or in the at least one intermediate group of properties declares one or more of an acronym element for identifying acronyms, an abbreviation element for identifying abbreviations, a quotation element for identifying quotations, a date element for identifying dates, a foreign phrase element for identifying

foreign phrases, a conditional element for marking data to be conditionally included, a subscript element for identifying subscripts, and a superscript element for identifying superscripts.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one property in the first group of properties or in the at least one intermediate group of properties declares one or more of a paragraph element for identifying paragraphs and a title element for identifying titles.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein one or more of the at least one first schema and the at least one second schema comprises a plurality of schemas, and wherein at least one schema in said plurality of schemas refers some or all of the other schemas in said plurality of schemas.

22. The layered design of claim 13, wherein at least one schema that results from said generating defines a complete document structure for one or more of a glossary, a frequently asked questions document, and a reference document.

23. A computer readable medium with a recorded representation of a plurality of schemas, comprising:

a plurality of schemas declaring a plurality of properties; and

a first group of at least one schema within said plurality of schemas in a base layer; and

a second group of at least one schema within said plurality of schemas in an intermediate layer; and

two or more top layer schemas that each provide a complete document structure; wherein

any properties declared within said second group that are dependent on schemas outside said second group are dependent on properties declared within said base layer; and

at least one property declared within each of said two or more top layer schemas is dependent on a property declared in said first group or in said second group.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares a basic text type for identifying text.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for identifying data that will be replaced and corresponding data that the identified data will be replaced with.

26. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for marking data proximal to the identified data that will also be replaced with the corresponding data.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema declares an attribute for identifying data that can be referenced in multiple locations of an XML document, thereby supporting easy updating of the data.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares one or more of a paragraph element for identifying paragraphs and a title element for identifying titles.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said first group of at least one schema or said second group of at least one schema declares a section element for identifying sections of a document.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of said two or more top layer schemas defines a complete document structure for one or more of a glossary, a frequently asked questions document, and a reference document.